



Arlington Council on Aging

Minutes

Date: Thursday April 27, 2023 Time: 6:00 pm

Present: Anne Brown, Sheila Connerney, Nancy Cox, Nancy Feeney, Sherry Graham, Mary Hung, Rick Fentin, Mara Klein Collins, Karen Nichols, Bob Tosi Jr., Marjorie Vanderhill

Present from community: Pat O'Connell and a group of five residents supporting the Senior Parking Permit Program, Rebecca Gruber

Location: This meeting was conducted in a hybrid format.

Kristine Shah, Executive Director

*Michael Quinn, Chair - **Absent***

Sheila Connerney, Secretary

The Council's primary responsibilities are to design, promote, and implement programs and services to address the needs of the community's elder population, and to coordinate existing services in the community.

1. Call to order at 6:02pm
2. Citizen's Open Forum
3. Minutes of the March 2023 meeting for approval

Nancy Cox made a motion to approve the March 2023 minutes. Anne Brown seconded the motion. The minutes passed.

4. Executive Director's Report (see below)
6. Report of the Chair - none
7. Letters of Interest for ACPAC

COA Board will recommend one person to ACPAC. Two people have come forward who are interested in serving on ACPAC in that capacity.

Anne Brown made a motion to form a subcommittee to select a COA appointee to ACPAC. Sherry Graham seconded the motion. The following COA Board members offered to serve on the subcommittee: Anne Brown, Nancy Feeney, Sherry Graham (Kristine will ask Michael Quinn).

8. Minuteman Senior Services Report

Committees are being formed, hoping to get meetings off the ground by July. Marge interviewed 4 Arlington residents interested in filling the MMSS board position last week.

10. Old Business

Rick Fentin presented some ideas and numbers regarding property tax deferral and the interference it has with the Senior Circuit Breaker. He explained that in order for seniors to take advantage of the town's Property Tax Deferral program, they would lose their annual senior circuit breaker. The Governor has recently proposed increasing the senior circuit breaker to \$2400 per year. Rick is looking for creative solutions from towns/state that would allow seniors to realize advantages of both programs.

11. New Business

12. Other Community Announcements

250th anniversary of the United States will be celebrated 2025/2026. Arlington is collaborating with surrounding towns and cities to plan commemorative events. They are looking for input, suggestions, volunteers. Public input session is this Sunday at 3:00 at Robbins Library for anyone who is interested. Reach out to Bob Tosi for more info.

This Sunday from 12:00-3:00 at Town Hall there will be a community resource fair. Anyone can attend.

13. Adjourn

Mary Hung made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Anne Brown seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.

Next meeting: May 18, 2023

Executive Director's Report: Kristine Shah

- I. COA Programs & Services Update
 - a. Coming up: CPR Refresher Class & Certification Class, Life Binder Talk, 3 cooking classes per month, Older American's Luncheon May 18, Summer Tea June 15. Arlington 250 Meeting, Walking Club returns in May, Summer Jazz Concert and Ice Cream Social, Osteoporosis seminar, True Story Theater Event, Partnership events/classes with Robbins Library & Arlington Center for the Arts
 - b. Media in 2023 Event: YourArlington.com and ACMI
 - c. Local Partnerships: BrightView sponsoring costs of Café & Drop in room coffee supplies, Sunrise providing weekly Bingo Treats, Park Ave providing monthly Bingo gift card prize/gift baskets
 - d. Recent projects thanks to COA Board members: AARP Tax Program, Rotary Club Spring Clean-up, Men's Group, Sand Bucket Deliveries
 - e. Minuteman Senior Services partnership: Provided 5 interested residents to be screened for MMSS Board open position, adding Mondays to Congregate Lunch schedule starting in May
- II. Financial Assistance Funds
 - a. Sevoyan Personal Needs Fund is depleted for the year.

1. Requests are being fulfilled using Sussman Fund, Widows Fund and New Emergency Assistance Fund until Sevoyan can be replenished in September.
 - b. Heating related assistance requests being fulfilled through Heating Assistance Fund (after applying for Fuel assistance)
 - c. New Water Bill Assistance Program through CTI for Fuel Assistance Approved Households
- III. Age & Dementia Friendly Initiatives
 - a. Senior Parking Permits
 - b. Older Adult Homelessness Prevention
 - c. Advocacy for “Formula Grant” (\$14 per older adult in Governor’s Budget)
- IV. Other
 - a. COA Staff Highlight
 - b. ASA Dissolution, letter from Board
 - c. Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon May 4 at 12pm
 - d. COA Board Member Training Opportunity May 9 at 1:30pm in Lexington